

**MINIMUM SETBACKS LIST**  
**Minimum Requirements for Location of**  
**Liquid Waste Disposal Systems**

The minimum requirements for the installation of new sewage disposal systems for either new or existing structures shall generally be as follows:

A. Minimum Separations

1. Septic tank to:

a.	Water supply well	100 feet
b.	Buildings or structures <sup>1</sup>	5 feet
c.	Property line adjoining private property	5 feet
d.	Perennial streams <sup>2</sup> (flow all year round)	50 feet
e.	Ephemeral streams <sup>3</sup> (drainage streams/easements)	50 feet
f.	Large trees <sup>4</sup>	10 feet
g.	Seepage pits or disposal fields	5 feet
h.	Private domestic water lines (building service line)	5 feet
i.	Public domestic water lines (water purveyor's line)	10 feet
j.	Groundwater	5 feet

2. Soil absorption system to:

a.	Water supply well - 100, 150, or 200 ft. depending on whether system has a:	
	Leaching field	100 feet
	Seepage pit	150 feet
	Any system discharging 5,000 gallons/day or more	200 feet
b.	Building or structures <sup>1</sup>	8 feet
c.	Property line adjoining private property (leachlines)	5 feet
d.	Property line adjoining private property (seepage pits)	8 feet
e.	Large trees <sup>4</sup> (seepage pits)	10 feet
f.	Perennial streams <sup>2</sup>	100 feet
g.	Colorado River/Mojave River	200 feet
h.	Ephemeral streams/ Drainage Courses <sup>3</sup>	50 feet
i.	Septic tank	5 feet
j.	Distribution box	5 feet

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| k. | Private domestic water line<br>(building service line)   | 5 feet   |
| l. | Public domestic water line<br>(water purveyor's line)  | 10 feet  |
| m. | High groundwater table level <sup>5</sup>  |          |
|    | Leachline  | 5 feet   |
|    | Seepage pit  | 10 feet  |
| n. | Ground surface on sloping ground<br>(When disposal fields and/or seepage pits are installed in sloping<br>ground, the minimum horizontal distance between any part of the<br>leaching system and ground surface shall be 15 feet.) Also see page A-16. | 15 feet  |
| o. | Lakes, water reservoirs  | 200 feet |
3. The minimum separations listed herein are largely derived from the Uniform Plumbing Code. In some cases, additions or changes have been made in order to adequately protect the public health. Where differences exist, the greater separation prevails unless specifically waived for cause by the Department of Environmental Health Services.

Footnotes:

- <sup>1</sup> Includes porches and steps whether covered or uncovered, breezeways, roofed porte cocheres, roofed patios, carports, covered walls, covered driveway, and similar structures or appurtenances.
- <sup>2</sup> A listing of perennial streams will be maintained by the Division of Environmental Health Services. See pages A-14.
- <sup>3</sup> An ephemeral stream/drainage course is any stream not listed as a perennial stream by the Division of Environmental Health Services (see Footnote 2). To determine where the setback restrictions should be applied, the U. S. Geological Survey Maps are used as a guide. If a stream is designated on the USGS Map by a blue dash/dotted line, the setback requirements must be met. If not shown, but there is obvious visual evidence of water flow, the setback is determined by the topography and the geology of the proposed site, but is not less than 25'. **Distances are measured from the edge of the channel or assumed 0-100 year flow.**
- <sup>4</sup> Any tree with a trunk diameter of one foot or more within 5' of the system that are not to be removed during construction.
- <sup>5</sup> The highest known level to which groundwater is known to have occurred rather than the level at the time when testing occurred.



County of San Bernardino • Department of Public Health  
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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550047 Min Req for Location of Liquid  
Waste Dis Sys.indd  
April 2007